



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHINLE MAN SENTENCED FOR THREATENING CANYON DE CHELLY PARK RANGER

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – Justin Tso, Sr., 57, of Chinle, Ariz., pleaded guilty here on April 14, 2005 to Threatening a Federal Law Enforcement Officer in violation of Title 36, U.S. Code Section 2.32 (a)(1) and was sentenced on that date to a fine of \$500 by U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark E. Aspey.

Tso's guilty plea and sentence were based upon threats made to a National Park Service Ranger in the Canyon de Chelly National Monument. At the time of the threatening statement in late February 2005, the Park Ranger was assisting Navajo Nation Rangers in a separate investigation into allegations of animal cruelty filed by tribal law enforcement against Tso.

Tso pleaded guilty in tribal court to one count of animal cruelty and is pending additional tribal animal cruelty and environmental charges regarding his operation of Justin's Horse Rentals in the Canyon de Chelly area.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Park Service. The prosecution was handled by Camille D. Bibles, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Flagstaff, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: No. 05-4048
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-100

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